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FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOMAK 96//

TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT

UNCLAS WH42278

TOMAK 96

JULY 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

THE POST LEADS WITH TWO STORIES ON THE MURDER OF MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING SR.

DAVID DITAWAY REPORTS FROM ADDIS ABABA THAT THE PROSPECT FOR CIVIL WAR HAS INCREASED WITH THE ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL CROWN COUNCIL. AMONG THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES ALREADY UNDER ARREST IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, ASRATE KASSA. INCLUDED IN THOSE ARRESTED IS MINASSIE HAILE, FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. THE CITY REMAINS UNDER AN 11:00 P.M. TO 6:00 A.M. CURFEW. (A-1)

A PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV AND ONE OF MRS. NIXON APPEAR ON PAGE A-1. ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV APPEARS ON PAGE A-1.

IN COMPARING THIS SUMMIT TO THE 1972 MEETING, ROBERT KAISED COMMENTS THAT FROM THE PACE OF ACTIVITY, IT ALMOST SEEMS THAT NORMALIZATION HAS SET IT; HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL SOMETHING REMARKABLE ABOUT THE PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND BREZHNEV. THE ONE THING MISSING SO FAR FROM THIS SUMMIT IS SOME REAL NEWS. THOSE DOUBTERS WHO QUESTION THAT THE BLOOM IS OFF SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMITS MIGHT CONSIDER THE GIFTS GIVEN BREZHNEV: IN 1972, A CADILLAC; IN 1973, A LINCOLN; AND IN 1974, A CHEVROLET. (A-2)

*****WHSE COMMENT*****

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IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, KAISER WRITES THAT THE TALKS ARE NOW CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATIONS. SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH SIDES HAVE REFUSED TO CONVEY EVEN A HINT OF WHERE THIS ISSUE MAY LEAD, OR EVEN WHETHER ANY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. (A-3)

MURPHY HARDER WRITES FROM YALTA THAT IT IS A COINCIDENCE OF HISTORY THAT FINDS PRESIDENT NIXON IN THE ONE SPOT IN THE WORLD, PARADOXICALLY, WHICH HE HELPED TO INSCRIBE IN REPUBLICAN POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AS THE ARCH SYMBOL OF MISGUIDED AMERICAN STATESHAFT. IN REFERENCE TO NIXON ADMINISTRATION SENSITIVITIES, THE PROUD RUSSIAN NAME OF YALTA APPARENTLY EVEN HAS BEEN OBLITERATED TEMPORARILY FROM THE RUSSIAN, IF NOT THE AMERICAN PRESS. SOVIET NEWSMEN HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO USE THE WORD YALTA IN THEIR STORIES. THE PRESIDENT'S PURSUIT OF DETENTE IS ILL-SERVED BY REAWAKENING MEMORIES OF THE FIRST YALTA CONFERENCE, SUBORDINATES RUEFULLY AGREE. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO COMPARISON WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE FIRST YALTA CONFERENCE 29 YEARS AGO. (A-4)

APPEARING ON "MEET THE PRESS," ADMIRAL ZUMWALT REPEATED HIS CONTENTION THAT THE U.S. NAVY HAS "LOST CONTROL OF THE SEAS" AND COULD BE DEFEATED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIETS. HE REFUSED TO ANSWER REPEATED QUESTIONS ABOUT ARMS NEGOTIATIONS, SAYING THAT AN EXPLICIT ORDER FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER PREVENTS ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS FROM COMMENTING ON SALT. HE DISCLOSED THAT HE TURNED DOWN THE JOB OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATOR BECAUSE "DOMESTIC POLITICS" PREVENTED THE VA FROM PROVIDING BENEFITS THEY NEED. (A-8)

MIKHAIL BARICHIKOV, THE LEADING DANCER OF LENINGRAD'S KIROV BALLET, HAS APPARENTLY DEFECTED WHILE ON A TOUR IN TORONTO, CANADA. HE WAS A GREAT ARTIST WITH THE BOLSHOI BALLET. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO COMMENT AND THE TOUR MANAGER WOULD SAY ONLY THAT BARICHIKOV WAS NOT PRESENTLY WITH THE COMPANY. (A-17)

CLAYTON FRITCHEY WRITES THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT'S "GENERATION OF PEACE" HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED, IT CAN HARDLY BE DENIED THAT 1974 HAS BECOME THE MOST PEACEFUL YEAR SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II, ALTHOUGH CRITICIZED FOR GOING TO MOSCOW AT THIS TIME, CONSIDERING THE PRESENT COMPARATIVELY RELAXED STATE OF THE WORLD, THERE COULD HARDLY BE A MORE PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO GET ON WITH DETENTE, OF WHICH ARMS LIMITATION IS ONLY A PART. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT WATERGATE HAS IMPAIRED MR. NIXON'S LEADERSHIP ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE NIXON-KISSINGER COMBINE HAS LOST ITS EFFECTIVENESS INTERNATIONALLY. THE MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE IS A TESTIMONIAL TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S DIPLOMACY. (A-19)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHN HERBERS REPORTS THE PRESIDENT AND MR. BREZHNEV TALKED FOR

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MORE THAN FOUR HOURS YESTERDAY AT YALTA BUT MADE LITTLE PROGRESS ON THE LIMITATIONS OF OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. YOUR RETURN TO MOSCOW TO PREPARE FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS IS NOTED. A MIRV AGREEMENT IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL IF THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE TO AVOID A COSTLY AND DANGEROUS INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMS RACE, ALTHOUGH SUCH A COMPLETE AGREEMENT IS NOT EXPECTED DURING THE VISIT. (A-1)

DAVID BINDER FINDS FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT PLANNING TO TRY TO CONTINUE AS LEADER OF THE SPD FOR THE NEXT FEWERAL YEARS. (A-9)

DREW MIDDLETON FINDS THAT IN THE PERIOD OF DETENTE, THERE HAS BEEN A METHODOICAL IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL MILITARY POWER IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. ALSO, OFFICIAL SOVIET SPEECHES AND WRITINGS SAY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST CAPITALISM MUST CONTINUE. MIDDLETON CITES FORMER AMBASSADOR KOHLER AS FINDING NO EVIDENCE THAT PREVIOUS SUMMIT AGREEMENTS OR THE GENERAL RELAXATION OF SOVIET-U.S. TENSIONS HAVE CHANGED SOVIET MILITARY THINKING THAT INCREASED NUCLEAR ROCKET FORCES ARE CENTRAL TO MILITARY POWER. THE QUESTION FOR NATO IS WHAT DEGREE OF SUPERIORITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE THE SOVIETS HAVE AND INTEND TO SUSTAIN. (A-12)

AN EDITORIAL SAYS THE MOST ESSENTIAL THING NOW IS A MOVE TOWARD TOTAL CESSATION OF NUCLEAR TESTING IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF YEARS. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD JOIN MR. BREZHNEV IN SUCH A COMMITMENT. (A-28)

WILLIAM SAFIRE SAYS THE PRESIDENT IS IN THE EAST'S SYMBOL OF THE CONTINUITY OF CHANGE AND WILL BE CONSIDERED GREAT IF HE DOES NOT CAVE IN WITH SOME UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING ON ARMS CONTROL IN A WRONGHEADED ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD SAVE HIS POLITICAL SKIN. (A-29)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

ACCORDING TO MICHAEL PARKS, YESTERDAY'S SUMMIT TALKS, WHILE BEING THE LONGEST AND MOST DIFFICULT THUS FAR, STILL DID NOT RESULT IN A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. THE SOVIET SPOKESMAN ON AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE, HOWEVER, QUOTED MR. BREZHNEV AS SAYING THERE WAS STILL TIME DURING THE SUMMIT TALKS TO REACH A NEW AGREEMENT. SOVIET OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT IF A NEW PACT IS SIGNED, IT WILL BE LIMITED IN NATURE. (A-1)

ANDREI SAKHAROV, THE SOVIET NUCLEAR PHYSICIST WHO IS ON A HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST TREATMENT OF POLITICAL DISSIDENTS IN THE USSR, HAS BEEN DENOUNCED FOR HIS "STRANGE BEHAVIOR," BUT SOVIET AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY DO NOT PLAN TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST HIM. (A-1)

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PRESS REPORTS FROM COLOMBIA INDICATE THAT THE COUNTRY'S WORST RECORDED AVALANCHE HAS KILLED AT LEAST 250 PEOPLE, AND THE NUMBER MAY RISE AS HEAVY RAINS MAY CAUSE FURTHER MUDSLIDES. (A-4)

IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL, THE SUN NOTES THAT THE RECENT TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND IRAN SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH, AS FRANCE GETS NEEDED OIL AND IRAN RECEIVES NEEDED TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE -- INCLUDING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. THE DEAL EMPOWERED FRANCE'S COMPETITION RATHER THAN COOPERATION IN THE COMMON MARKET, BUT IT ALSO SHOWED THAT TWO MIDDLE-SIZED COUNTRIES COULD PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES WITHOUT DEPENDENCE ON SUPERPOWERS. THE SUN WONDERES IF PRESIDENT NIXON CAN ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH IN MOSCOW AS THE SHAH DID IN PARIS. (A-12)

JOSEPH ALSO NOTES A SHIFT IN THE HOUSE AWAY FROM VOTING FOR A BILL OF IMPEACHMENT. HE LISTS THREE REASONS: (1) POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM HOME DISTRICTS ON REPUBLICANS TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT NIXON; (2) PROOF OF CRIMINALITY AS THE IMPEACHMENT TEST ON THE PART OF SOME DEMOCRATS; AND (3) JAMES ST. CLAIR'S UPCOMING OFFENSE. (A-13)

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